



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 12, 2009

Mr. Stewart B. Minahan
Vice President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RE: DECOMMISSIONING COST ANALYSIS AND PROGRAM FOR
MAINTENANCE OF IRRADIATED FUEL (TAC NOS. ME1264 AND ME1269)

Dear Mr. Minahan:

By letters dated December 15 and December 23, 2008 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML083580119 and ML083650343, respectively), Nebraska Public Power District submitted its Decommissioning Cost Analysis and Program for Maintenance of Irradiated Fuel for the Cooper Nuclear Station, in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Sections 50.75(f)(3) and 50.54(bb), respectively.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed the information provided in your submittals and determined that additional information is required in order to complete its review. These questions were provided to Mr. D. Van Der Kamp on June 8, 2009. Please respond to the enclosed request for additional information by July 31, 2009. If circumstances result in the need to revise the requested response date, please contact me at (301) 415-2296.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael T. Mackley for F. Lyon".

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

Enclosure:
Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
DECOMMISSIONING COST ANALYSIS AND
PROGRAM FOR MAINTENANCE OF IRRADIATED FUEL
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-298

By letters dated December 15 and December 23, 2008 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML083580119 and ML083650343, respectively), Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) submitted its Decommissioning Cost Analysis and Program for Maintenance of Irradiated Fuel for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS), in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Sections 50.75(f)(3) and 50.54(bb), respectively. In reviewing NPPD's submittals, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. Please respond to the following requests for additional information (RAI):

Program for Maintenance of Irradiated Fuel

RAI No. 1: Financial Assurance

In order for a licensee to assume an earnings credit on its decommissioning funds over a SAFSTOR (safe-storage) period that is greater than a 2 percent real rate of return, the licensee must be able to recover total decommissioning costs through rates set by itself or a regulatory authority. Such rates must be subject to upward adjustments during the SAFSTOR period following the permanent shutdown of the plant involved if the actual rate of growth of the decommissioning funds does not meet or exceed the assumed or approved higher-than-2-percent-real-earnings rate. Please provide a statement and supporting references or documents that indicate the NPPD will be able to receive upward adjustments from ratepayers to its decommissioning funds, if necessary, following permanent shutdown.

RAI No. 2: Table 5, Cooper Nuclear Station, Scenario 3

The staff requests that NPPD provide a breakdown of the estimated \$3.8 million annual cost and supporting activities to support spent fuel management for CNS for the period 2020 – 2046 identified in Table 5.

RAI No. 3: Section 3. Cost Considerations

This submittal indicated that CNS has an existing independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) with sufficient capacity to accommodate the spent fuel remaining in the reactor building pool at shutdown. What is the storage capacity of the ISFSI? At the time of shutdown, how many modules will be stored on the ISFSI? The submittal indicated that NPPD estimates that an additional 34 multipurpose canisters will be loaded with fuel from the pool at time of shutdown. Does this include the last core that will be removed when the plant is shut down?

Enclosure

Decommissioning Cost Analysis

RAI No. 4: Section 2. Decommissioning Alternatives

In the submittal, NPPD identified six possible decommissioning scenarios for CNS, and provided the annual costs associated with each option. However, NPPD did not provide an analysis using the decommissioning funds to demonstrate adequate funds are available to address these options. Please provide the supporting analysis for each of the identified alternatives or, at a minimum, for the selected option.

RAI No. 5: Section 2.1. DECON

The submittal focuses on DECON as the preferred option for decommissioning, and Section 2.1 provides detailed discussions on the preferred DECON option. However, the Irradiated Fuel Management Program submittal uses the SAFSTOR option as the mechanism for addressing the radiological and spent fuel management costs. Please confirm which option is the preferred decommissioning option.

RAI No. 6: Section 3.4. Site-Specific Considerations

The submittal did not indicate if NPPD had completed a 10 CFR 50.75(g)(1) review of its records to address any potential spills that could result in contaminated soil or groundwater, and its potential impact on costs. Please state whether or not NPPD has completed the review.

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/RA by Michael T. Markley for/

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
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*memo dated

OFFICE	NRR/LPL4/PM	NRR/LPL4/LA	PFPB/BC	NRR/LPL4/BC	NRR/LPL4/PM
NAME	FLyon	JBurkhardt	RCarlson*	MMarkley	FLyon MMarkley for
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